

Message Text

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ORIGIN ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 VO-03 SCA-01 INSE-00

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DRAFTED BY D/HA/ORM:SCLOWMAN:CML

APPROVED BY D/HA - J.M.WILSON, JR.

EA-MR ARMSTRONG

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P 182219Z AUG 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

INFO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: VIETNAMESE REFUGEES: BOAT CASE

REF: TOKYO 12234

1. DEPT. AGREES WITH EMBASSY COMMENT THAT A RETREAT BY GOJ FROM ITS CURRENT MORE LIBERAL POSITION, ALLOWING REFUGEE BOAT CASES TO LAND FOR 30 DAYS WHILE RESETTLEMENT OPPORTUNITIES ARE SOUGHT, WOULD BE MOST UNFORTUNATE. AS EMBASSY IS AWARE, DEPARTMENT AND U.S. MISSION GENEVA ARE WORKING URGENTLY WITH UNHCR TO ESTABLISH AN INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM FOR DEALING WITH THESE BOAT CASES.

2. EMBASSY SHOULD NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT THE UNHCR APPEAL IS DIRECTED SPECIFICALLY TO BOAT CASES. GIVEN THE LIMITED ALIEN NUMBERS WHICH REMAIN AVAILABLE IN THE U.S. PROGRAM AND THE LIMITED RESETTLEMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN OTHER COUNTRIES, WE BELIEVE THAT OUR ATTENTION MUST BE FOCUSED VERY NARROWLY ON THIS PROBLEM. THUS, WE DO NOT BELIEVE
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THAT THE U.S. SHOULD EXPEND NUMBERS OR EFFORT IN ATTEMPTING,

AT THIS TIME, TO SUPPORT THE RESETTLEMENT OF THE SUBSTANTIAL NUMBERS OF INDOCHINESE STRANDED IN JAPAN AT TIME OF THE FALL OF INDOCHINA OR OTHERWISE MAKING THEIR WAY TO JAPAN THRU NORMAL CHANNELS.

3. OUR FOCUS MUST BE ON INDOCHINESE REFUGEES REACHING JAPAN BY BOAT DIRECT FROM INDOCHINA IN RECENT MONTHS OR WHO WERE RESCUED AT SEA AND TAKEN TO JAPAN. EVEN IN SUCH CASES, OF COURSE, THE EFFORT MUST BE TO SEEK SOLUTIONS WHICH RECOGNIZE INTERNATIONAL NATURE OF THE PROBLEM. OUR RECORDS INDICATE ABOUT 54 INDOCHINESE REFUGEES PRESENT IN JAPAN IN THIS CATEGORY, ALL OF WHOM EMBASSY RECOMMENDS FOR PAROLE. IF EMBASSY RECORDS DIFFER, WE WOULD APPRECIATE STATUS REPORT ON THIS SUBJECT. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

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